



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

TRAFFIC, PARKING, + TRANSPORTATION

October 12, 2021

Dear Mass Ave Business Owner,

On September 14, we held a virtual community meeting to discuss the implementation of separated bike lanes on Mass Ave between Dudley St and Alewife Brook Pkwy. This work is part of the City's Cycling Safety Ordinance, which will install safe, separated, all-ages facilities to ride bikes on nearly all the city's major streets.

Recent Updates to the Plan

At the September 14 meeting, we shared preliminary plans and took questions. During the meeting and in the days that followed, we received a large amount of feedback. Based on that feedback, we made changes to the previous plan. These include:

- Finalizing the layout for the corridor.
- Finalizing loading hours. Loading will be permitted in the inactive **southbound** bus lane from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. No loading and/or parking will be permitted overnight between 10:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.
- Installing a **northbound** bus lane. No loading and/or parking will be permitted **northbound** at any time.
- Metered parking added on Magoun St, Gold Star Rd, Dudley St, and Alberta Ter, and Cottage Park Ave.
- Additional safety features for bicyclists and pedestrians that do not affect loading and/or parking.

The plan accompanying this letter contains the specific locations where changes will be made, including the layout of all travel lanes, bus treatments, bicycle facilities and crosswalks, along with the specific number of on-street parking and loading spaces and their regulations at every location along the corridor.

Loading and Parking:

Traffic, Parking and Transportation (TP&T) staff evaluated restoring metered parking in places along the corridor where loading is proposed. The determination was that this would pose significant issues for emergency response in the case of the fire, as the street would not have enough width between the median and a parked car to deploy fire apparatus. By limiting curb

access to short-term loading, drivers can move their vehicles in the case of an emergency. In consultation with Cambridge Fire, we determined to pilot this configuration and evaluate it on an ongoing basis to determine if changes are needed.

To mitigate the loss of metered parking on Mass Ave, we have added metered parking on side streets. 20 total metered spaces will be added. 41 will be removed. Details are provided in the roll plan.

Northbound Bus Lane:

During the September 14 meeting, we heard significant feedback in support of adding a northbound bus lane. Existing travel times for buses indicated that a bus lane would provide benefit during all hours of the day.

Implementation

The Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department is aiming to begin installation of this work starting **Monday, October 25**, weather dependent. In the case of delays, work will take place the week of November 1. We will send out additional information as implementation approaches.

Follow Up and Evaluation

Once implementation of this plan is completed, we will continue to look for additional opportunities to improve Mass Ave for all users and mitigate the impacts of the project. This could include making further adjustments to parking regulations, trying to identify opportunities for shared parking, and considering whether further improvements to Mass Ave can take place through a construction project.

More information

Please visit the project webpage at cambridgema.gov/mass-ave-dudley-alewife for more information on the project, including slides from and a full recording of our September 14 meeting, a link to an email list to sign up for project updates, and more information on the **Cycling Safety Ordinance**. These materials will be posted on the webpage as well. If you have questions about this project, contact Andreas Wolfe at awolfe@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-9162.

Sincerely,

Andreas Wolfe, Street Design Project Manager, City of Cambridge
Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department